

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend Claims 13 and 45 to read, as follows.

1. **(Original)** An image forming apparatus comprising:

a plurality of developing devices, each of which includes a developer carrying member for carrying a developer to develop an electrostatic image formed on an image bearing member with a developer, and a developer regulating member for regulating the developer carried on said developer carrying member;

common voltage applying means for applying voltages to said developer regulating members,

wherein the voltages applied to said developer carrying members are variable independently from each other, and when at least one of said voltages varies, the voltage applied by said voltage applying means is capable of being changed.

2. **(Original)** An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein at least when a plurality of developing devices are in operation, the voltages are applied to the developer carrying members associated with said developing devices in operation, and said developer regulating members of said developing devices in operation are supplied with the voltages by said voltage applying means.

3. **(Original)** An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the voltages applied by said voltage applying means are determined by respective voltages applied to said developer carrying members.

4. **(Original)** An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the voltages applied by said voltage applying means are determined on the basis of a maximum value and/or minimum value of the voltages applied to said developer carrying members.

5. **(Original)** An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the voltages applied by said voltage applying means are determined on the basis of an average of the voltages applied to said developer carrying members.

6. **(Original)** An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the voltages applied by said voltage applying means are determined such that potential difference between the voltage applied by said voltage applying means and a maximum value or a minimum value of the voltages applied to said developer carrying members, is within a predetermined range.

7. **(Original)** An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the voltage applied by said voltage applying means is determined such that potential differences between the voltages applied by said voltage applying means and the voltages applied to said developer carrying members.

8. **(Original)** An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein an assumed value of the voltage applied by said voltage applying means is determined on the basis of an average of the voltages applied to said developer carrying members, when 4 maximum potential difference between the assumed value and the voltages applied to said developer carrying members, is within a predetermined range, the assumed value is determined as being the voltage applied by said voltage applying means, and when the maximum potential difference is not within the predetermined range, the voltage applied by said voltage applying means is determined such that maximum potential difference is within the predetermined range, by changing the assumed value.

9. **(Original)** An apparatus according to Claim 8, wherein a determination is made as to such a voltage applied to said developer carrying members as to provide a minimum potential difference between the voltage applied by said voltage applying means and the voltages applied to said developer carrying members, and when the potential difference between the thus determined voltage and the assumed value is not within a predetermined range, the assumed value is changed so that said potential difference is within the predetermined range.

10. **(Original)** An apparatus according to any one of Claims 6-9, further comprising an ambience detecting means for detection an ambient condition, wherein said predetermined range is determined in accordance with an output of ambience detecting means.

11. **(Original)** An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein a range of the voltages applied to said developer carrying members, is limited within a predetermined range.

12. **(Original)** An apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein the voltages applications to developer carrying members are determined such that potential differences between the voltages applied by said voltage applying means and the voltage applied by said developer carrying members are within a predetermined range.

13. **(Currently Amended)** ~~An apparatus according to Claim 1 or 10.~~ An apparatus according to any one of Claims 6-9, further comprising an ambience detecting means for detection an ambient condition, wherein the voltage applied by said voltage applying means is determined in accordance with an output of said ambience detecting means.

14. **(Original)** An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein each of the voltages applied to said developer carrying members are changeable in accordance with a result of detection of densities of a reference images formed by the respective said developer carrying members.

15. **(Original)** An apparatus according to Claim 14, wherein the voltages applied by said voltage applying means are determined in accordance with a result of detection of densities of the reference images.

16. **(Original)** An apparatus according to Claim 14, wherein the density of the reference image is detected by formation of the image of said image bearing member or an image transferred onto a transfer member from said image bearing member.

17. **(Original)** An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the voltages which are applied to developer carrying members and which are variable are DC voltages.

18. **(Original)** An apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising a plurality of image bearing members, which are developed by said developer carrying members, respectively.

19. **(Original)** An apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein one of said developing devices is provided, together with said image bearing member, in a process cartridge which is detachably mountable to a main assembly of an image forming apparatus.

20. **(Original)** An image forming apparatus comprising:  
a plurality of developing devices, each of which includes a developer carrying member for carrying a developer to develop an electrostatic image formed on an image bearing member with a developer, and a developer regulating member for regulating the developer carried on said developer carrying member;  
common voltage applying means for applying voltages to said developer regulating members,

wherein each of the voltages applied to said developer carrying members are changeable, and the voltages applied by said voltage applying means are determined on the basis of the respective voltages applied to said developer carrying members.

21. **(Original)** An apparatus according to Claim 20, wherein at least when a plurality of developing devices are in operation, the voltages are applied to the developer carrying members associated with said developing devices in operation, and said developer regulating members of said developing devices in operation are supplied with the voltages by said voltage applying means.

22. **(Original)** An apparatus according to Claim 20, wherein the voltages applied by said voltage applying means are determined on the basis of a maximum value and/or minimum value of the voltages applied to said developer carrying members.

23. **(Original)** An apparatus according to Claim 20, wherein the voltages applied by said voltage applying means are determined on the basis of an average of the voltages applied to said developer carrying members.

24. **(Original)** An apparatus according to Claim 20, wherein the voltages applied by said voltage applying means are determined such that potential difference between the voltage applied by said voltage applying means and a maximum value or a minimum value of the voltages applied to said developer carrying members, is within a predetermined range.

25. **(Original)** An apparatus according to Claim 20, wherein the voltage applied by said voltage applying means is determined such that potential differences between the voltages applied by said voltage applying means and the voltages applied to said developer carrying members.

26. **(Original)** An apparatus according to Claim 20, wherein an assumed value of the voltage applied by said voltage applying means is determined on the basis of an average of the voltages applied to said developer carrying members, when a maximum potential difference between the assumed value and the voltages applied to said developer carrying members, is within a predetermined range, the assumed value is determined as being the voltage applied by said voltage applying means, and when the maximum potential difference is not within the predetermined range, the voltage applied by said voltage applying means is determined such that maximum potential difference is within the predetermined range, by changing the assumed value.

27. **(Original)** An apparatus according to Claim 26, wherein a determination is made as to such a voltage applied to said developer carrying members as to provide a minimum potential difference between the voltage applied by said voltage applying means and the voltages applied to said developer carrying members, and when the potential difference between the thus determined voltage and the assumed value is not within a predetermined range, the assumed value is changed so that said potential difference is within the predetermined range.

28. **(Original)** An apparatus according to any one of Claims 24-27, further comprising an ambience detecting means for detection an ambient condition, wherein said predetermined range is determined in accordance with an output of ambience detecting means.

29. **(Original)** An apparatus according to Claim 20, further comprising an ambience detecting means for detection an ambient condition, wherein the voltage applied by said voltage applying means is determined in accordance with an output of ambience detecting means.

30. **(Original)** An apparatus according to Claim 20, wherein each of the voltages applied to said developer carrying members, are changeable in accordance with a result of detection of densities of a reference images formed by the respective said developer carrying members.

31. **(Original)** An apparatus according to Claim 30, wherein the density of the reference image is detected by formation of the image on said image bearing member or an image transferred onto a transfer member from said image bearing member.

32. **(Original)** An apparatus according to Claim 20, wherein the voltages which are applied to developer carrying members and which are variable are DC voltages.



33. **(Original)** An apparatus according to Claim 20, further comprising a plurality of image bearing members, which are developed by said developer carrying members, respectively.

34. **(Original)** An apparatus according to Claim 20, wherein one of said developing devices is provided, together with said image bearing member, in a process cartridge which is detachably mountable to a main assembly of an image forming apparatus.

35. **(Original)** An image forming apparatus comprising:  
a plurality of developing devices, each of which includes a developer carrying member for carrying a developer to develop an electrostatic image formed on an image bearing member with a developer, and a developer regulating member for regulating the developer carried on said developer carrying member;

common voltage applying means for applying voltages to said developer regulating members,

wherein each of the voltages applied to said developer carrying members are changeable in accordance with a result of detection of densities of a reference images formed by the respective said developer carrying members, and the voltages applied by said voltage applying means are determined in accordance with a result of detection of densities of respective reference images.

36. **(Original)** An apparatus according to Claim 35, wherein at least when a plurality of developing devices are in operation, the voltages are applied to the developer carrying members associated with said developing devices in operation, and said developer regulating members of said developing devices in operation are supplied with the voltages by said voltage applying means.

37. **(Original)** An apparatus according to Claim 35, wherein the voltages applied by said voltage applying means are determined such that potential difference between the voltage applied by said voltage applying means and a maximum value or a minimum value of the voltages applied to said developer carrying members, is within a predetermined range.

38. **(Original)** An apparatus according to Claim 35, wherein the voltage applied by said voltage applying means is determined such that potential differences between the voltages applied by said voltage applying means and the voltages applied to said developer carrying members.

39. **(Original)** An apparatus according to Claim 37 or 38, further comprising an ambience detecting means for detection an ambient condition, wherein said predetermined range is determined in accordance with an output of ambience detecting means.

40. **(Original)** An apparatus according to Claim 35, further comprising an ambience detecting means for detection an ambient condition, wherein the voltage applied

by said voltage applying means is determined in accordance with an output of ambience detecting means.

41. **(Original)** An apparatus according to Claim 35, wherein the density of the reference image is detected by formation of the image on said image bearing member or an image transferred onto a transfer member from said image bearing member.

42. **(Original)** An apparatus according to Claim 35, wherein the voltages which are applied to developer carrying members and which are variable are DC voltages.

43. **(Original)** An apparatus according to Claim 35, further comprising a plurality of image bearing members, which are developed by said developer carrying members, respectively.

44. **(Original)** An apparatus according to Claim 35, wherein one of said developing devices is provided, together with said image bearing member, in a process cartridge which is detachably mountable to a main assembly of an image forming apparatus.

45. **(Currently Amended)** An image forming apparatus comprising:  
a plurality of developing devices, each of which includes a developer carrying member for carrying a developer to develop an electrostatic image formed on an image

bearing member with a developer, and a developer regulating member for regulating the developer carried on said developer carrying member;

a common voltage applying means for applying a voltage to said developer regulating member. ~~member~~;

46. **(Original)** An apparatus according to Claim 45, further comprising a plurality of voltage applying means for applying voltages to said developer carrying members, and the voltages applied to said respective said developer carrying member are independently changeable.